1: Bowen-Jones et al. K-5 (1955-1958) 1961
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question unless a complete agricultural revolution committed Maltese farming to thorough-going dairy farming specialisation. Such specialisation, given the climatic and physiological difficulties, would not be easy to justify. A very considerable seasonal glut of milk exists between May and August at present, and the Milk Marketing Undertaking cannot handle the flush. This degree of fluctuation could be lessened but not removed. Costs of production are such that not only would exports be uneconomic but imported tinned milk can and could considerably undercut home production. Local consumption of fresh cows' milk could not be expanded much more than 10 to 15 per cent. above the present level which is already the highest in the Mediterranean, as long as tinned milk is more easily preserved, and as long as the rural community keeps goats and sheep. The banning of milk imports and of the production of goat milk would hardly be in the consumer's economic or dietetic interests.

Horses, mules and donkeys, some 6,500 in number, are still very important as work animals. For farm transport, they can only be replaced by the internal combustion engine purchasable only by the more prosperous cultivators. Produce collection by merchants' lorries is increasing as also is the use of hired tractors for cultivation. The numbers of these animals is unlikely to decrease quickly outside the urban areas because of their usefulness in tilling difficult land.

Of the remaining small livestock, rabbits and poultry already make a very large although immeasurable contribution to food supplies. Improvements in quality could be obtained if farmers' interest was aroused. At present, mixed breeds of poor poultry are commercially uneconomic.

In conclusion, we must return to the vexed question of dairy-farming and milk production in Malta. In 1950, the Director of Agriculture (1) put the question: 'Under prevailing conditions in Malta and Gozo, which is the more profitable animal to keep? The cow or the goat?', and followed with the statement: '... no accurate answer backed by accurate scientific data has ever been given'. The same impasse had often been noted before, for example by Dawson Shepherd (2), and Stockdale (3). An unpublished report on Maltese Agriculture by a visiting F.A.O. commission (4) similarly found itself at sea in the absence of any firm information. In 1956, the complexity as well as the obscurity of the situation was manifested in a Report on the Dairy Industry by G. W. Ford (5). In this study, reference is made to the different conclusions reached by independent observers, and to intermediate suggestions made by Marshall (6), one of whose remarks: 'I simply cannot visualise hygienic milk production by the peasant farmer in Malta', our observations would endorse.

Milk-production in Malta is no longer a matter of economics but, as in many countries, is affected by social and dietetic policies. Brief mention was made in Chapter VI C of the problem of the incidence of undulant fever and its association with milk infected by *Brucellosis Melitensis*. Some 20 per cent. of Maltese goats are thus infected, and any dietetic campaign to encourage the drinking of milk, particularly important in child welfare, must take account of this. Few cows are thus far infected and elimination is easier. The problem that emerges is therefore both economic and social in character. It is felt by some that reliance on imported tinned milk is one solution but by others such a suggestion is regarded as humiliating. Another possible line of action is to replace goats with milch cows, and in 1956 a system by which herdsmen were offered one Dutch Friesian heifer in calf for 12 diseased goats actually came into operation. The third possibility is to accept the position as it exists at the moment, or slightly to modify it, and centralise milk distribution thus enabling pasteurisation. This too has been done. Even now however, the cost of tinned milk imports, the cost of producing cows' milk, the surplus of goats' milk, all these as well as the land use point mentioned earlier, still remain to be dealt with. As we shall see, the market for milk called into being as a social measure is now the mainstay of many farmers of all grades. The development of the centralised agency, the Milk Marketing Undertaking has been accompanied by a guaranteed price system. Some 80 per cent. of all milk producers have, as a result of this organising of wholesale purchases, formed their own union the K.M.H. - *'Kumpanija Maltija*

2: Boissevain E-5 (1960-1961) 1965
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giant dockyard in Cospicua, or for one of the various British Service departments scattered over the island. Gozo is more dependent upon agriculture, but many Gozitan men work in Malta, returning to their families for the weekend. Though Maltese villages are populated mostly by industrial workers, they have nonetheless a decidedly rural atmosphere about them, for their inhabitants still have links with the agricultural economy of the past. Many retain a patch or two of land which they plant with potatoes or some other cash crop to supplement their wages, and virtually all keep chickens and rabbits to supply them with eggs and fresh meat for special celebrations.

TABLE 1. Occupational Classes in Farrug and Kortin[1]
(Expressed as percentages of the total male working population)

Occupational Class	*Farrug*	*Kortin*	*Islands*
Professional and Clerical	4	7	15
Service and Skilled	39	52	55
Semi- and Unskilled	42	27	20
Agricultural	15	14	10
Totals	100	100	100

A hundred years ago, the inhabitants of Farrug were mostly farmers, though many were also employed on a cottage-industry basis in the thriving cotton industry of the time. Today they are for the most part wage labourers. Of the total male working population, 42 per cent are employed as semi-skilled and unskilled labourers, 39 per cent work as skilled fitters and as service personnel (shopkeepers, drivers, policemen, etc.) and 15 per cent as farmers. Only 4 per cent are professionals and white-collar workers. Three-fourths travel outside the village to their places of employment, chiefly with the Malta Government and the British military departments.

The occupational structure of Kortin is much the same. The higher proportion of skilled and clerical workers is in part a reflection of its past importance as an administrative centre, for until early in this century it was the seat of the district court. Seven per cent of the men work in professional and white-collar

[1] The figures for Farrug and Kortin are based on surveys I conducted, and the national figures on the *1957 Census: Report on Economic Activities*, pp. 45–55. The totals of the male working population in Farrug, Kortin and the Maltese Islands are 296, 1,131 and 75,930 respectively.